



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

December 30, 2015

Charles Mark
Forest Supervisor
Salmon-Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Mr. Mark:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, we have reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record Of Decision for the proposed **Invasive Plant Treatment Project** (EPA Region 10 Project number: 11-026-AFS) on Salmon-Challis National Forest in Butte, Custer, and Lemhi Counties, Idaho.

In our comments on the Draft EIS in March 2015, the EPA expressed concerns with the project due to its potential impacts on water quality and biological resources, lack of air quality data, and impacts of climate change. We recommended the Forest Service continue to work with other entities to ensure effectiveness of proposed treatments and mitigation of impacts during implementation of this project. We also requested that the FEIS include results of air quality analysis for the project, data on wetlands in the analysis area, and information on potential impacts of climate change.

In general, we find that the Final EIS is responsive to our comments. Specifically, we appreciate inclusion of data on air quality and updated discussion on impacts of climate change. However, due to a lack of requested data on wetlands in the FEIS, we remain concerned about this project's potential impacts to these resources. We recommend that the final ROD for the project include measures to protect and preserve wetlands and associated resources from impacts by the project. In addition, we encourage continued efforts to reduce adverse impacts, especially to aquatic resources as the project is implemented and in subsequent decisions related to this project area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Final EIS and draft ROD. If you would like to discuss our comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or electronic mail at mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Littleton".

Christine B. Littleton, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit